



September 2003

Process for the 2004 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education

House Bill 2076 created a Legislative Work Group to define legislative expectations and provide policy direction for the statewide strategic master plan. As a result of that legislation, the HECB's original process and timeline were revised.

I. Process Prior to HB 2076 (April 2002 - May 2003)

In April 2002, the HECB began preliminary work on the 2004 Master Plan, talking with legislators, higher education leaders, and other key stakeholders to identify key issues. In September 2002, the Board adopted a scope statement, timeline and process to focus the master plan and guide activities over the following year. Beginning with the October 2002 meeting and continuing through the June 2003 meeting, the Board reviewed discussion papers on key issues and conducted discussions with key stakeholders. In December 2002, the Board adopted a resolution on higher education funding and revenue options as part of the 2003-05 Operating Budget recommendations.

Key higher education issues identified and discussed at Board meetings included:

Higher Education Funding and Revenue Options: Presentation of discussion paper on funding (Oct. 29, 2002); Presentation of discussion paper on revenue options, Board discussion, public comment, and Board adoption of resolution (Dec. 12, 2002).

Enrollment Policy and Funding: Presentation of discussion paper (Jan. 29, 2003); Board discussion and public comment (Feb. 26, 2003).

Tuition and Financial Aid: Presentation of discussion paper (Feb. 26, 2003); Board discussion and public comment (March 26, 2003).

Branch Campuses: Presentation of discussion paper (March 26, 2003); Roundtable discussion with representatives of the public two- and four-year institutions, the SBCTC, and the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (May 8, 2003 Policy Committee meeting).

College Transfer & Articulation: Presentation of student transfer discussion paper (April 23, 2003), Board discussion, public comment, and presentation by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges on student transfer issues (June 12, 2003).

In addition to soliciting formal comment at Board meetings, Board members and staff have actively reached out to legislators, education and business leaders, students and other stakeholders to identify core issues critical to the short- and long-term future of higher education in Washington. Board members and/or staff have met with presidents of two- and four-year public colleges and universities, the provosts of the public four-year institutions, and leaders from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Office of the Governor and other stakeholder organizations.

The Board's original intent was to develop policy statements, strategies and implementation plans that reflected the ideas of all interested parties. Once the Legislature adopted and the Governor signed HB 2076, this process was revised.

II. Process Following HB 2076 (June 2003 - Present)

On July 7, 2003, the Legislative Work Group that was established through HB 2076 met for the first time and provided some preliminary policy direction on the strategic master plan. The work group met again on September 17 to continue their discussion.

We are continuing to refine a revised process for the strategic master plan that includes direction and guidance from the Legislative Work Group, as well as stakeholders. The process will include development of goals, strategies and accountability/performance measures. Attached is a revised timeline that reflects our ongoing work since June 2003, along with preliminary completion dates.